

Response
Application No. 09/964,874
Attorney Docket No. 011299

REMARKS

In response to the Decision on Appeal (No. 2007-0464) from the Board dated March 14, 2007 regarding the above-captioned application, Appellants hereby submit an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §41.54 cancelling Claims 24 and 25 to thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

Reversal of 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections:

Appellants gratefully acknowledge the Board's reversal of the rejection of Claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious based on the combined teachings of Kulakowski and either Tsuchimochi or Tsutsui. In addition, Appellants gratefully acknowledge the Board's reversal of the rejection of Claims 12-13 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious based on the combined teachings of Kulokowski and either Takasugi or Davis.

As indicated above, Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining pending Claims 10-13, 26 and 27 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

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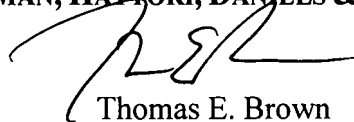
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If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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TEB/nrp